

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 00552 230651Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 HA-05 /101 W
-----105831 230652Z /21

R 230605Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2227
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION USUN
CINCPAC

UNCLAS CANBERRA 0552

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR, ID, AS
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS INDONESIAN TAKEOVER
IN TIMOR

1. AUSTRALIAN FONMIN ANDREW PEACOCK, IN A STATEMENT ON
JANUARY 20, 1978, ANNOUNCED THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERN-
MENT OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED INDONESIA'S SOVEREIGNTY
OVER THE FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONY OF EAST TIMOR.

2. PEACOCK SAID THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION
WAS BASED UPON THE FACT THAT INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT
CONTROL WAS EFFECTIVE AND COVERED ALL MAJOR ADMINISTRA-
TIVE CENTERS. ALTHOUGH THE GOA "REMAINS CRITICAL OF
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THE MEANS BY WHICH INTEGRATION WAS BROUGHT ABOUT,
IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC TO CONTINUE TO REFUSE TO
RECOGNIZE THAT EAST TIMOR IS PART OF INDONESIA."

3. THE GOA'S MOVE WAS PROMPTED BY THE NEED TO DEAL
DIRECTLY WITH INDONESIA OVER CONSULAR MATTERS HAVING
TO DO WITH REUNITING FAMILY MEMBERS OF THOSE TIMORESE

WHO HAD COME TO AUSTRALIA AS REFUGEES FOLLOWING THE
INDONESIAN INVASION IN 1975.

4. PEACOCK'S ANNOUNCEMENT BROUGHT PREDICTABLE HOWLS
OF OUTRAGE FROM THOSE SMALL NUMBERS OF POLITICALLY
ACTIVE AUSTRALIANS WHO HAVE MADE THE TIMOR ISSUE A
BADGE TO REPLACE THE ONE THEY LOST WHEN THE VIETNAM
WAR ENDED. MORE SENSIBLE AUSTRALIANS (INCLUDING MOST
EDITORIAL OPINION) HAS APPLAUDED PEACOCK'S STATEMENT
AS POSSIBLY LAMENTABLE BUT NONETHELESS THE ONLY
PRACTICAL COURSE OF ACTION IN DEALING WITH AUSTRALIA'S
NORTHERN NEIGHBOR.
ALSTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOVEREIGNTY, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER00552
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780033-0621
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780135/aaaabdgp.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bc0325e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3732593
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS INDONESIAN TAKEOVER IN TIMOR
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, PGOV, ID, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bc0325e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014